



Attorney Docket No. 0756-7291

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Naoaki YAMAGUCHI et al.

Serial No. 10/816,899

Filed: April 5, 2004

For: OPTICAL PROCESSING
APPARATUS AND OPTICAL
PROCESSING METHOD

) Group Art Unit: 2818

) Examiner: C. Lee

) CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 30, 2006.

Adrian Stamer

RESPONSE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Official Action mailed October 28, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 5, 2004.

Claims 3-20 were pending in the present application, of which claims 3, 6, 9, 12, and 16 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 3 of the Official Action rejects claims 3-20 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,716,283 to Yamaguchi.

In response to this rejection, a *Terminal Disclaimer* is submitted herewith. Upon filing of this *Terminal Disclaimer*, the claims of the present invention are now believed to

be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejections are requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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